

MINUTES
OF THE
SIXTY-SIXTH ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
TUSCALOOSA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

HELD WITH
MT. - PARON CHURCH,
TUSCALOOSA COUNTY, ALA.

OCTOBER 5th, 6th, and 7th, 1898.


OFFICERS :

J. H. CURRY, MODERATOR,
JNO. T. BEALLE, CLERK.

The next Session to be held with Hopewell Church, five
miles East of Tuscaloosa, beginning Wednesday,
after first Sunday in October, 1899.

TUSCALOOSA, ALA.

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1898.



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MINUTES

OF THE TUSKALOOSA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

SESSION OF 1898.

MT. PARAN, OCTOBER 5th, 1898.

The Tuskaloosa Baptist Association met here to-day, in its Sixty-Sixth Annual Session. The Introductory Sermon was preached by Rev. J. H. Curry, on the subject of Ministerial Education. After Sermon, dinner was served on the ground, and the Association met at 2 o'clock, P. M. for business.

1. The roll of Churches was called, delegates came forward, presented letters from the Churches and voted for Moderator, J. H. Curry was re-elected.

2 LIST OF CHURCHES AND NAMES OF DELEGATES :

BETHANY—L. R. Finnell, S. E. Hodge, S. E. Hughes, J. H. Price.

BETHEL—R. C. Black.

PIBVILLE—

BIG CREEK—E. Coleman, Frank Sutton.

BIG HURRICANE—Letter.

BIG SANDY—S. C. Sharp, B. M. Phifer.

BLOCTON, 1st—J. J. Little.

BLOCTON, 2nd—William Broadhead

BLOCTON, 3d—P. W. McCollough.

BROOKWOOD—J. L. Boyd, Walter Collins, J. T. Thomas.

CARROLL'S CREEK—Isaac Martin, J. H. White, S. L. Hassell.

COTTONDALE—Letter.

FLATWOODS—John Patrich.

GILGAL—M. B. Smith, Alexander McDowell.

HOPEWELL—J. A. Garner, D. A. Brown.

LITTLE SANDY—W. I. Ryan.

MT. MORIAH—William Allen.

MT. OLIVE—M. M. Watkins, J. M. Wheat.

MT. PARAN—G. R. Fuller, Henry Snyder, P. B. Rolen, W. W. Watson, Jr.

MT. PLEASANT—W. R. Brown.

MT. ZION—Huston Durrett, John Hutchins.

NORTHPORT—J. H. Curry, R. S. Cox, C. E. Rice, J. W. Brown,

F. M. Hamner, B. C. Sumner, Willard Sumner, J. T. Bealle.
 PINEY GROVE—
 PLEASANT HILL--William Snyder Collin Snyder, J. S. Baker.
 RUHAMMA—
 SARDIS--J. T. Hays.
 SHULTZ CREEK—Letter.
 SILOAM—
 TUSCALOOSA--L. O. Dawson, J. C. Brown.
 VANCE--J. S. Quarles, John Quarles.
 WINDHAM SPRINGS--J. M. Loller, Ed Christian.
 WOODSTOCK--J. C. Arnold.

3. Reading of Letters postponed till to-morrow morning.

4. Received Correspondence as follows :

Sipsey Association :—D. W. Whatley.

Birmingham :—Rev. W.A. Hobson, Rev. W.B. Carter, Thos. Parsons.

Union :—W. G. Robertson.

Oahawba—Rev. W. E. Fendley.

Central Liberty :—Rev. F. M. Hobson.

Religious Exercises :—J. M. Loller, J. T. Hays, and Deacons of Mount Paran Church.

Documents :—R. S. Cox, S. E. Hughes, J. S. Quarles.

Nominations :—M. B. Smith, J. J. Little, P. W. McCollough.

Finance :—Basil Phifer, W. H. Allen, R. C. Black.

5. Returned Correspondence as follows :—Any brother in good standing, in any church of this Association, is hereby authorized to present Minutes, and represent us in any Sister Association.

6. Moderator appointed the following Special Committees :

7. Report on Temperance, read by Rev. L. O. Dawson, discussed by several brethren, was adopted as follows :

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

In unanimously adopting this paper this Association recommends simply that the subject of Temperance in general and of the saloon in particular be made a matter of earnest prayer. To emphasize the great need of such a course we mention the following :

1. Tempted by what promised to be a large revenue to be derived from the liquor business our county has contracted an enormous debt which the present generation has no hope of ever paying.

2. The urgent need for large sums of money to meet the interest on this debt has put our fair city at the mercy of those institutions that have largely been the cause of her financial distress.

3. By the necessities of the city the saloon is fastened on the county which pays more for litigation arising from the traffic than it receives from its license.

4. By declaring the liquor traffic a legal business we have induced some of our best citizens to engage in it, knowing too that God has pronounced an especial curse upon those who "put the bottle to their neighbors lips."

5. The fact that the men who support the traffic do not believe it to be a legitimate business is shown by the enormous tax they help to fix upon it, a tax very far out of proportion with any other line of commercial effort among us. The same thing is apparent from the fact that the law adds insult to injury by requiring of the saloon keeper an annual certificate of good character signed by no less than twenty men. Every man has the right to be considered a gentleman till he proves himself a rascal, but the moment any citizen desires to set up a saloon the law insults him by taking from him this right so precious to every man, and compels him to furnish evidence of his good character. Then as if it purposely sought to humiliate the applicant for license and his recommenders it demands the testimony of nineteen other names before it will accept the statement of any one.

6. That the men engaged in the business acknowledge it to be illegitimate is shown by the fact that they pay this arbitrary tax without complaint and submit without a protest to this annual challenge of their good name made by the laws of the land.

7. Our laws have made the liquor traffic legal, if not right and then have imposed such a tax upon it that if a poor man sought to win a livelihood through that method he would be debarred. We thus have shut out the poor and enlarged the rich. The poor man may waste his money in a saloon but we will not permit him to make money by a saloon. By such laws and class legislation we subvert the fundamental principles of our government.

8. Notwithstanding this great tax we do not derive enough money from our share of the profits to defray expenses arising from the traffic.

9. According to the report of our last grand jury our jail is overcrowded. In the same report they returned one hundred and nine true bills, a very large percentage of which are traced directly or indirectly to the saloon.

10. We have helped to firmly fix establishments in our midst that are wonderfully attractive to our boys, and through these brilliant and ruinous places we have lured many of the best young men of our town and county to destruction.

11. We all know that one murder after another occurs in or around our saloons where men meet to drink and linger till they quarrel, fight and kill.

12. We all know that the commerce of our country is sorely crippled by the diversion of many thousands of dollars from the channels of legitimate trade into the coffers of the saloons.

13. We know that our commerce is doubly crippled by a failure to collect honest debts from men who make their whiskey dealer a preferred creditor, and from whom a grocer or farmer can expect but little or nothing after the saloon.

14. Because the saloon makes a non-producer, hopelessly involving him in debt, ruining him and injuring every man he owes, we have seen our commerce receive a third and still more terrible blow.

15. We have seen our schools languish, because men whose duty it is to educate their children have been ruined by the saloon.

16. We have seen our churches languish because our citizen-

ship pays many times the amount for whiskey that it subscribes for benevolence.

17. We have seen the joy of many families destroyed because some loved one became a patron of the saloon.

18. We have known helpless families in our county to be terrorized by drunken husbands, fathers or brothers whose natural affection had become embruted through the influence of saloons.

19. We have known defenseless innocents to be driven into the streets of our city at night because the saloons had converted a man into a beast.

20. We have heard the testimony of dying lips disclosing that death came to them because of the influence of the saloons.

21. We have seen the saloon ruin for life, boys who had been sent to our University to be prepared for life.

22. We have seen hundreds of facts to prove the fallacy of that old saying: "If you will let the saloon alone it will let you alone." It affects most vitally and terribly every innocent man, woman and child in our county.

23. This paper seeking to be conservative has not told one half of the terrible truth, but has recited enough to make it appear extreme, and yet we have made no mention of the spirit of gambling and lawlessness that grows in the saloon soil, nor how the traffic, growing bold in its strength controls Legislatures, and city government, nor how the spirit of anarchy is encouraged by the frequent breaking of such laws as seek to restrict the business.

In view of these things we declare it to be the sentiment of this body representing more than three thousand responsible souls ;

1. That the saloon as it now exists is one of the very chiefest and most deadly enemies of the law, order, peace, good will, commerce, education, morality, religion and liberties of our county and country.

2. That in seeking to regulate this curse, the high license system has proven to be a sad, and utter failure. Its regulation does not regulate.

3. That the saloon is a relic of the dark ages that finds a place in a civilized day only because of a love of liquor on the part of some, a love of money on the part of others and an innate aversion to change on the part of all.

Our civilization would recoil in horror from a custom that would give a single child to a tiger once a year, and yet such a custom would be a tender mercy compared to what is inflicted on innocent people through the saloons.

Appealing therefore to the Almighty Searcher of hearts to bear witness that this Association adopts these sentiments in perfect good will to every body connected with a saloon and as much in their behalf and for their happiness as for that of any other person, we pray God ;

1. That all good men may cease their connection with the traffic, and that too, whether they own the saloon or rent their property for its use.

2. That every body may avoid the door of a saloon as they would the jaws of hell.

3. That when the present licenses expire on Jan. 1st 1899, no more may be issued ever again in our county. And in these three prayers we call on all who love God and truth and justice and liberty to join us.

Recognizing the courteous treatment this Association has ever

received at the hands of our county press we, as subscribers and patrons of "The American," "The Times," "Gazette," "Breeze" and "Chronicle" are emboldened to respectfully request that this paper notwithstanding its length, be published in full in their columns.

We further request its publication in the "Alabama Baptist," and "Alabama Christian Advocate," and that it be read from the pulpit of each Christian Church, white and colored, in our county at its next meeting.

We order the Clerk of the Association to have 4000 copies printed in circular form and distributed among the people.

In closing this call to prayer we remember that prayer without effort is mockery.

8. Adjourned to 9 o'clock, a. m., to-morrow. Prayer.

THURSDAY MORNING.

9. Met at 9:15. Devotional Exercises by J. S. Quarles.
10. Letters read by brethren J.T. Hays, Rev. W.E. Fendley.
11. Missionary Sermon, by Rev. L. O. Dawson.
12. Collection for Mission, \$8 33.
13. Adjourned.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON.

14. Met at 2 o'clock. Prayer by Revs. F. M. Hobson and W. E. Fendley.

15. Report on Education not being ready, on motion, it was ordered that Rev. W. A. Hobson be privileged to speak on Education, which he did.

16. Collection taken for Ministerial Education, amounting to \$16.26.

17. None of Committee on Aged and Infirm Ministers present, Moderator appointed B. C. Sumner, Henry Snyder, J. M. Wheat.

18. Report on Finance adopted as follows :—We have received the following amounts from the churches, and turned over same to Treasurer, J. T. Bealle :

For State Missions,.....	\$35.33
Home "	30.02
Foreign "	24.80
Ministerial Education .....	.65
Orphan's Home.....	10.13
Minutes.....	24.25

Associational purposes	\$14.90
Association Collection, (Mission)....	8.33
Indigent Ministers	1.60
Howard College .....	.50

Total, \$150.51

Respectfully Submitted,

B. M. PHIFER,

W. H. ALLEN,

ROBT. C. BLACK.

} Committee.

19. Report on State Missions read by D. A. Brown; Home Missions by J. T. Bealle; Foreign Missions by S. E. Hodge. Discussion of all the Reports, by S. E. Hodge, J. T. Bealle, W. B. Carter.

20. Moderator appointed the following Standing Committees, to serve for one year :

Temperance :--R S Cox, J M Loller, W H Allen.

Sunday Schools :--D A Brown, W W Watson, C E Rice.

State Missions :--J C Brown, B C Sumner, J S Quarles.

Home Missions :--J R Mosey, R C Black, J S Yerby.

Foreign Missions :--T W Palmer, L W Johnson, S E Hodge.

Education :--Robison Brown, J J Little, J A Garner.

Periodicals :--Yerby Auxford, Huston Durrett, A W Thompson.

Orphanage :--M B Smith, J T Hays, J M Wheat.

Aged and Infirm Ministers :--M B Scott, R Hogan, J C Arnold.

21. Adjourned to 9 a. m., to-morrow. Prayer.

FRIDAY MORNING.

22. Met pursuant to adjournment. Devotional Exercises led by Rev. W. E. Fendley.

23. Resumed discussion of reports on Missions—W B. Carter, J. H. Curry, M. B. Smith, G. R. Fuller, speaking. Reports adopted as follows :

STATE MISSIONS—We do not think we have made that progress in the work of State Missions that we should have made; and why? Because we have, not only as individuals, but even some churches, clung to the old adage: "Charity begins at home," referring to local neighborhoods, forgetting that in the present time, the remotest portions of our State or adjoining States, are just at our door, and that even Cuba, which is now in great measure being released from Catholicism, is at our door.

Would to God that the Baptists of Alabama, and especially of the Tuscaloosa Association, would rise at the command of God, and preach the Gospel to the needy thousands about us. We submit with shame, that less than one-tenth of the Baptists of Alabama give anything to their cause. We again insist that the churches composing this Association adopt the plan of taking collections at every meeting for Missions, believing that if we do, that in the next

twelve months our State Board will not only pay the debt it now owes, but will be able to prosecute its work another year without contracting debt. The churches which take regular collections are the ones which most easily raise the amount asked by this Association and give most to our work.

Respectfully submitted,

D. A. BROWN.

HOME MISSIONS--The Home Mission Board claims to have made the best report to the last Convention that it has ever made. The amount raised and expended on the field, in work and building, was \$110,636.50, an increase over last year of \$13,424.68. Total cash received by the Board, from all sources, was \$86,887.27, an increase over previous year of \$3,702.96.

Number of Missionaries employed 467, an increase of 95 over last year. Baptisms 4,739, an increase of 30 over last year. With this increase of results some might be led to believe that there is now less need for the work of the Home Board, but we are amazed at the magnitude of the need of the work now in our midst. In 1845, the population of the Southern Baptist Convention territory was about eight millions. To-day the same territory holds within its limits twenty-five millions. So, while we have largely increased in numbers and efficiency, the population and growth, in material things, has made an equally great increase and rapid progress, making the field of the Board fuller of work and greater in need. While the white Baptists of the South gain about 4 per cent. or 50,000 per annum, the annual increase of population is about half a million. Hear this alarming language of the report at Norfolk: "The proportion of evangelical christians to that of the unconverted masses, is becoming smaller with every passing year."

The special needs pointed out are the great centers of population--Washington, St. Louis, Baltimore, New Orleans. Baltimore, a large immigration port; Washington, the political capital of the Nation; St. Louis, in the heart of the Great Mississippi Valley and most important agricultural region in the world; New Orleans, the gate-way of thirty thousand miles of navigable waters. In the important centers we are able, if we will, to plant many churches and institutions that will largely shape not only their destiny, but that of their contiguous territory.

Louisiana alone, could well employ all the forces we now have engaged, for the field there is truly great and the laborers few.

And then, the mountain regions need all our forces. The Mormons have established headquarters at Chattanooga, and have sent out 400 Missionaries into their district, and are turning some to their abominable and christian faith, who ought to hear and believe the word from our lips.

The work in Cuba has, of course, been temporarily hindered. The churches there have been bereft of their pastors, but the work has by no means been abandoned. Sunday Schools and Prayer-meetings have been kept up, and souls converted, while the ravages of war have gone on.

Of the 4,760,726 Baptist of the world, the Southern Convention territory has 3,053,517. Of these, 1,568,906 are white. It is plain from these figures, that we are able to possess the land, if we will. How mighty is our work in these marvelous times.

JNO. T. BEALLE.

FOREIGN MISSIONS--The Foreign Mission work of the Southern Baptist Convention is guided and directed by the Foreign Board, located at Richmond, Va. Rev. R. J. Willingham is the Corresponding Secretary of that Board, to whom is largely intrusted the control and management of this branch of the Mission work.

The field of labor is mainly in China, Africa, Italy, Mexico, Japan, and South America, in which we have a large force of Missionaries and native helpers whose labors have been signally favored and blessed in the salvation of thousands annually who, hitherto, have been living in darkness and ignorance of the way of life; and yet, considering the hundreds of millions who have never so much as heard of the Lord and of his Christ, the surface of these fields has hardly been broken; and perishing millions are dependent upon the renewed efforts, prayers and contributions of his people in all christian lands. They appeal to us in thunder tones for the word of life. We, the most favored people of the world, are looked to and expected to come up to the help of the Lord, the help of the Lord against the mighty.

In the providences of God the doors are opening all over the world, extending to the far away isles of the seas. The Lord is working with a mighty hand, opening up opportunities for the Evangelization of the world. Brethren, a fearful responsibility rests upon us, and we appeal to you in the name of the Lord of Lords and King of Kings, to shake off your indifference and become aroused to a full sense of the obligation that is upon you to seize the opportunity afforded for the enlargement of your contributions and increased activity in spreading the Gospel all over the world. The case is an urgent one; it is cruel and sinful to neglect it, and base ingratitude to Jesus our Saviour, to fail and refuse to do all that you can to bring about the coming of our Lord. S. E. HODGE, Ch'n.

24. Report of Committee on Documents, read by R. S. Cox. Subscription of about \$50 taken for Woodstock Church, and report adopted:

REPORT ON DOCUMENTS--Your Committee would report:

1st. There are 28 Churches represented at this Convention. Three failed to be represented, either by letter or delegates.

2nd. Of the number represented, 21 report Sunday Schools; 4 report no Sunday Schools, and 3 make no report of S. S. at all.

3d. But a small proportion of our churches report prayer-meetings; and if, as has been said: "The prayer-meeting is the pulse of the church" then, very many of our churches are sadly enemic. It is, however, with gratitude to the Master, that we note a net gain of 107 in the membership of the churches reported since the last session of your body, as gathered from statistics furnished us; and while the spiritual condition is not all that it ought to be, and not at all that we wish, yet, we thank God and take courage for what He has done, and urge every christian--male and female--to a deeper consecration of life to the service of the Master.

4th. The church at Woodstock asks that pecuniary aid be extended, so as to enable them to liquidate an embarrassing debt upon their property. Your Committee recommends that due consideration be given the appeal, and such measures taken as shall seem wise to the Association.

5th. The 3rd Church at Blocton prays for a letter of dismission,

that they may unite with another body of the same faith and order; and we recommend that the petition be granted, and that the Clerk of this body notify that church accordingly.

6th. We feel that we would be derelict in duty, did we not call attention to, and emphasize the fact that, in nearly every instance, those churches NOT reporting Sunday Schools, nor prayer-meetings, nor contributions to our mission enterprises, (for they are "chum" associates) are wanting in spirituality and increase in membership; but on the CONTRARY, report lukewarmness, derth and losses. May the God of all peace burn it into our souls that, if we would GROW, we must WORK, and like King Aza, while we TEAR DOWN, we must BUILD UP.

Respectfully submitted,

R. S. COX,
J. S. QUARLES, } Com.
S. E. HUGHES,

25. Report on Sunday Schools, with report of Sunday School Convention, after discussion, adopted :

REPORT ON SUNDAY SCHOOLS--Your Committee beg to say that the Sunday Sch ol offers an opportunity to teach and learn, that we do not find in any other field of christian labor; and that every church should have an evergreen School.

We are gratified to note a steady and sure increase of interest in this work upon the part of our churches and individual members. Still, some of our churches and many of the older members are careless and indifferent to the work.

The Sunday School is simply the Church at work, and we would urge the christian people to strive with increased earnestness and zeal to establish and maintain a school in every church. We suggest that our pastors urge the churches to faithfulness in this important part of church work. Respectfully submitted,

HUSTON DURRETT, Ch'n.

REPORT ON S. S. CONVENTION.—The success of our Convention, since last Association, has indeed been gratifying. The sessions are generally well attended and self-interest maintained. This Convention has proved an invaluable adjunct to our Association.—Those who deny themselves the privilege of attending said Convention are missing a Spiritual treat. We trust every member of this noble body will speedily become interested in this grand work.

Fraternally submitted,

J. C. BROWN, Sec'y.

26. Report on Periodicals, after discussion, was adopted as follows :—

PERIODICALS—There is no better instrument in shaping the destiny of our young people than good literature. We most heartily commend the careful reading of the Bible, as it is the best of all.—It is the basis of all moral and social, as well as religious law. It is for the uplifting of the world. We advise all to read the "Alabama Baptist." It is a Baptist weekly, and should be read by all. We recommend the "Foreign Mission Journal," and our "Home Field." They are full of Missionary news and information. We also recom-

mend for use in our Sunday Schools, the Baptist Sunday School Board literature. Respectfully submitted,

J. W. LOVELESS,
G. R. FULLER,
H. T. BURKS.

27. Report on Nominations, discussed, amended, and adopted as follows:—

REPORT ON NOMINATIONS.—Your Committee on Nominations recommend that the next Session of the Association be held with the Hopewell Church, beginning on Wednesday, before the Second Sunday in October, 1899.

Introductory Sermon:—L. O. Dawson; alternate, S. E. Hodge.

Missionary Sermon:—F. M. Woods; alternate, J. H. Curry.

Executive Committee:—C. E. Rice, H. F. Hill, J. Hardin, S. F. Moody, S. M. Black, B. M. Phifer, D. A. Brown.

Delegate to Southern Baptist Convention:—J. H. Curry; alternate, B. M. Phifer. To State Convention:—John Patrich, J. M. Loller, J. S. Quarles, F. M. Woods, S. E. Hodge, Robison Brown.

Respectfully submitted,

M. B. SMITH, Ch'n.

28. Adjourned for dinner. Prayer.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON.

29. Met at 2 o'clock, p. m. Prayer by Isaac Martin.

30. The following report on Orphan's Home, was read, discussed and adopted:—

REPORT ON ORPHAN'S HOME—We are glad to report that our Orphan's Home, located at Evergreen, is in a prosperous condition. There are about 40 children in the Home, at present. These children are well taught in the schools and industrial pursuits, and their home-training, under the direction of Mrs. Ansley, is of the highest order. At present, appeals are being made for current expenses, and for the addition of a much needed room. We would urge our churches to give liberal support to the Orphan's Home. All contributions should be sent to Rev. J. M. Steward, Superintendent, Evergreen, Ala.

Respectfully,

R. E. HOBSON.

31. Committee on Aged and Infirm Ministers not present, a collection of \$10.00 was taken for old Bro. N. H. Williams, and the following resolution, offered by C. E. Rice, adopted:

RESOLVED, That the Committee on Aged and Infirm Ministers, be requested to look into the advisability of creating a permanent fund for this cause, and report such plans as they think best for the consideration of this body at its next meeting.

32. Following is Report on Education:—

REPORT ON EDUCATION—Your Committee on Education, offer the following Report:—The growing interest of our people in schools

is prophetic of more widely diffused intelligence. From this, good may be hoped for, though this good may not be unmixed with evil. The multiplication of schools ensures to a larger number of children the rudiments of knowledge. At the same time, it ensures the multiplication of cheap teachers. And while some cheap teachers are good ones, it is notably true in every department of life, that low wages can not COMMAND skilled labor. Some teach for the love of it, some, to make a living rather than dig for it, having little conception of the responsibilities of this high calling, and little competency for its sacred duties. And, since many parents have had but meagre school privileges, and are not able clearly to discriminate between the characters of schools, whatever may be the difference in the advantages offered, the plausible canvasser of the cheap school is apt to win their patronage.

For two generations, Baptists have been pressing towards the front in Education, and are not ashamed of the position they now occupy. They have a great many good schools, seeking to develop man's spiritual as well as his physical, and intellectual nature, into true and noble manhood. Without detracting from any, I mention only those that have special claim upon the patronage of this body. The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, at Louisville, Ky., offers thorough education to our ministerial students. The work done there is of the highest order. Hundreds of noble, godly men, have come out from it to bless our land. Howard College has done good work under all its embarrassments, and has greater promise now. Many prominent and eminently useful men, in all the walks of life, have come from its training. The Alabama Central Female College, located in your midst, and for the benefit of your daughters, asking and expecting your patronage and fullest sympathy, and most earnest prayer, has for forty years done faithful work, and scattered blessings abroad.

Respectfully submitted,

JOSHUA H. FOSTER, Ch'n.

33. The Association asks the churches to raise, during the year, one thousand dollars for benevolent objects, and that amount has been apportioned as follows :

REPORT ON APPORTIONMENT :

Bethany,	\$15	Cottondale,	\$ 8
Bethel,	15	Mt. Moriah,	20
Bibbville,	5	Mt. Olive,	10
Flatwoods,	13	Mt. Paran,	10
Gilgal,	30	Carroll's Creek,	5
Hopewell,	15	Mt. Pleasant,	10
Little Sandy,	15	Mt. Zion,	15
Piney Grove,	5	Northport,	190
Big Creek,	15	Shultz Creek,	15
Big Hurricane,	15	Siloam,	10
Pleasant Hill,	5	Tuscaloosa,	400
Sardis,	15	Vance,	20
Big Sandy,	50	Windham Springs, ...	10
Blotton 1st,	60	Woodstock,	20
Blotton, 2d,	10	Brookwood,	10

REPORT OF FIRST DISTRICT :

The meeting of the First District of the Tuscaloosa Association, was held with Gilgal Church, on Friday, before the 4th Sunday in July, 1898. Introductory Sermon preached by Bro. W. B. Carter, of Birmingham. Next meeting to be held with First Baptist Church, Blocton, on Friday, before the 4th Sunday in July, 1899, Rev. L. O. Dawson to preach the Introductory Sermon. Subjects: 1st. "Which is the best way to develop the latent abilities of our young people?"—Opened by Bro. W. W. Perry. 2nd. "What are the duties of the lay members of the church, to the deacons and pastors?"—S. H. Morrison. 3d. "Should alien Baptism be recognized as christian baptism, by our denomination?"—J. W. Thompson. 4th. "Has a deacon the right to administer the Ordinance of Baptism?"—J. R. Mosely. A resolution was passed, instructing the Clerk to insert, in his report, the names of all delegates attending the meeting.

Big Sandy—Basil Phifer, E. E. Davis; Big Hurricane—S. W. Loggins; Bibbville—W. T. Sansing; Blocton—S. H. Morrison, W. R. Belle; Cottondale—R. Hudgins, G. W. Simons; Gilgai—J. W. Thompson, J. L. Albright, J. N. Smith, A. W. Thompson; Little Sandy—H. E. Eddins, J. H. Ryan, M. B. Scott, G. L. Hinton; Mt. Pleasant—W. R. Browne, Marvin Copeland; Mt. Zion—J. T. Thruwer, R. E. St. John, Jno. Hutchins; Mt. Moriah—J. C. Champion, B. W. Clifton, W. H. Allen; Sardis—J. T. Hayes; Tuscaloosa—L. O. Dawson, S. A. Yerby, P. D. Browne; Vance—J. S. Quarles, Wood Quarles; Woodstock—B. A. Thrasher.

J. S. QUARLES, Moderator.
J. T. HAYES, Clerk.

REPORT OF SECOND DISTRICT :

The Second District meeting was held with the North-Port Church, on Friday and Saturday, before the 3rd Sunday in Aug. '98. Next meeting will be held with Windham Springs Church, on Friday, before the 3d Sunday in August, 1899. Introductory Sermon: G. R. Fuller; alternate, R. S. Cox. Subjects: 1st. "What should be done to get the spirit of Contention out of our Churches and Brethren?"—Wm. Bryant. 2nd. "What are the main difficulties in the way of the development of Christian Character?"—C. E. Rice. 3d. "The Importance of Church Discipline"—J. H. Curry. 4th. "Does the Church that fails to meet every Sunday and read and teach the Scriptures, follow the example of the first Churches?"—E. Coleman.

R. S. COX, Moderator,
G. W. SANDERS, Clerk.

34. The following Resolution was heartily and unanimously adopted :

RESOLVED, That this Association tenders its grateful thanks to the Mt. Paron Church, and community, for their kind and bounteous hospitality while in their midst.

35 Adjourned, to meet with Hopewell Church, five miles

East of Tuscaloosa, on Wednesday, after the first Sunday in October, 1899.

36. Sung "How firm a foundation ye Saints of the Lord," and gave parting hand.

J. T. BEALLE, Stated Clerk.

J. H. CURRY, Moderator.

ORDAINED MINISTERS :

POST OFFICE.

J. H. M. Anders,	Coker.
J. T. Bealle,	Northport.
R. H. Blake,	River Bend.
R. S. Cox,	Northport.
J. H. Curry,	Northport.
L. O. Dawson,	Tuscaloosa.
T. B. Dison,	Blocton.
J. H. Foster,	Tuscaloosa.
G. R. Fuller,	Northport.
J. R. Hallman,	Coaling.
S. E. Hodge,	Humphrey.
J. W. Loveless,	Griffin.
W. J. Miller,	Vance.
J. F. Price,	Brookwood.
M. B. Smith,	Tuscaloosa.
Joseph Tibbs,	Vance.
T. B. Whatley,	Tuscaloosa.

CONSTITUTION.

1. This Association shall be composed of members chosen by their different churches in our union, who, producing their credentials, shall be entitled to seats.

2. The members thus chosen and convened, shall be known by the name of "The Tuscaloosa Baptist Association," which shall have the privilege to enact and carry out plans for Missionary purposes in all their bearings--yet, so that the churches and individual members are left free; and that giving or withholding shall not be a bar to membership.

3. This Association shall usurp no authority over the churches in our Union, or infringe upon any of their internal rights; but shall merely be considered an advisory council, in all matters relative to their internal concerns; nevertheless, it becomes necessary, in some cases, to have a uniform rule of procedure, viz: If one church commit an offence against another, it shall be the duty of the offended to labor with the offender for satisfaction; if she fail of success, she shall call the aid of two or more churches in our union to assist in laboring for satisfaction, and if final satisfaction, in the opinion of the helps thus called, be not obtained, the aggrieved may bring the

case before the Association, which shall be taken up and decided upon according to its merits. If a serious difference should arise in an individual church, which, upon due labor cannot be reconciled, she shall call the aid of two or more sister churches to assist in the work; and if a reconciliation be not effected, the helps so called, or the church, may bring the case before the Association, to be acted on according to its merits; but the Association will take cognizance of no case of the above kind, unless a due course of procedure shall have been previously pursued, according to the economy of the church discipline, found in the 18th chapter of the Gospel of St. Matthew, and other parts of the Scriptures, which define the nature of offences and the manner of bringing offenders to trial.

4. The churches of our union shall transmit to every annual session of the Association, written communications, specifying the names of their delegates, their number in fellowship, baptized, received by letter, restored, dismissed, excommunicated, and deceased, which shall be read and minuted accordingly.

5. Every church belonging to this Association shall be entitled to representation in the following manner: Each church is entitled, and is requested to send, four delegates, and any church with a membership exceeding 75, for every additional 25 members, shall be entitled to one additional delegate. Any church failing to represent herself as prescribed in the Constitution, shall state her reasons at the next annual session. Any delegate retiring from the Association without leave, before adjournment, his name shall be stricken from the minutes of that session.

6. New churches may be admitted to our union by delegates bearing petitionary letters. If, upon due examination, they be found orderly and orthodox, the Moderator and brethren shall manifest their admission by giving the delegates the right hand in token of christian fellowship.

7. The Association, when convened, shall be governed by a regular and proper decorum, which she is authorized to form and amend according to her own views.

8. At every session of the Association, a Moderator shall be appointed by and from the delegates present, whose duty it shall be to see that the rules are strictly observed, and to take the voice of the Association on all subjects legally introduced. A stated Clerk shall be appointed, who shall continue in office until the Association shall elect his successor, and whose duty it shall be to take proper and correct minutes of every session of this body, which he is to present to the view of the Association annually. An assistant Clerk may be elected each year, if necessary.

9. The Association shall have power to exclude from the union any church that may violate the constitution, or depart from the orthodox principles of the constitution.

10. The Association shall furnish the Minutes of every session to the churches making contributions for that purpose.

11. Every query sent by a particular church, must be included in her letter, certifying that she endeavored to reconcile it, but failed. In such a case, the Association shall take it under consideration, and the voice of the majority shall be considered an advisory answer, which shall be entered on the minutes.

12. Queries which immediately concern the general union of the churches, sent by a particular church, or introduced by a proper motion, shall be taken up and decided as soon as practicable.

13. Any church in our union having a preacher whom she deems

worthy of ordination, shall call a presbytery of Ministers from sister churches, to officiate in the work ; and all presbyteries (in the ordaining of Ministers or Deacons, or in the constituting of churches, shall be governed by the Abstract of Faith adopted by the Association.

14. The Association shall have a fund, supplied by the voluntary contributions from the churches, by their delegates, and paid over to the committee on finance. This committee shall be appointed annually, whose duty it shall be to receive in charge, the Association fund, and dispose of the same agreeably to order, and make at every session, a fair and circumstantial report of their proceedings.

15. This Association shall not adjourn any session until she shall have finished all business on hand, except in extraordinary cases.

16. The Minutes of the Association shall be read and corrected, if necessary, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk before the session rises.

17. The Association shall, in all cases (except to amend the Constitution) be governed by a majority of the members present.

18. Amendments to this Constitution may be made at any session of the Association, when two-thirds of its members are present.

Articles of Faith.

ARTICLE 1 We believe in only one true and living God, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost.

2. We believe that the Scriptures, comprising the Old and the New Testament, are the word of God, the only rule of faith and practice.

3. We believe in the doctrine of Election, and that God chose his people in Christ, before the foundation of the world.

4. We believe in the doctrine of original sin.

5. We believe in man's incapability, by his own free will and ability, to recover himself from the fallen state in which he is by nature.

6. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God by the imputed righteousness of Christ only.

7. We believe that God's elect shall be called, regenerated and sanctified by the Holy Ghost.

8. We believe that the Saints shall be preserved in Grace, and never fall finally away.

9. We believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper are Ordinances of Jesus Christ, and that true believers are the only subjects of Baptism, and that by immersion is the Apostolic mode.

10. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, and in the General Judgment, and that the felicity of the righteous and punishment of the wicked will be eternal.

11. We believe that no minister has any right to administer the ordinances of the Gospel, but one who is regularly baptized, called, and comes under the imposition of the hands of a Presbytery.

12. We believe that none but regularly baptized members have a right to commune at the Lord's Table.

Rules of Decorum.

ART. 1. The Association shall be opened and closed with prayer.

2. The Moderator shall be considered a judge of order, and shall have a discretionary right to call to order at any time.

3. A member not satisfied with his decision, may appeal to the Association on the same day, but at no other time.

4. But one member shall speak at a time, who shall rise to his feet, and on obtaining permission, proceed.

5. The Moderator, when addressed by a member for permission to speak, shall signify the same by naming the person, or otherwise.

6. No member shall be interrupted while speaking, unless he depart from the subject, or use words of personal reflection. Every motion made and seconded, shall come under the consideration of the Association, unless withdrawn by him who made it.

7. Each case taken up by the Association, shall be decided on or withdrawn before another shall be offered.

8. When a question is taken up, after allowing time for the debates, the Moderator shall take the voice of the Association on the subject, in such mode as he may determine.

9. The Moderator shall announce the decision to the body.

10. Any member wishing to retire, must have permission of the Moderator.

11. No member shall speak more than twice on the same proposition, unless by permission of the Association, nor more than once until every one wishing to speak shall have spoken; nor shall any proposition be made to close the subject until the debates have been carried through.

12. The appellation of "Brother," shall be used in the Association by members in their address to one another.

13. The names of members shall be called as often as the Association may direct.

14. No member shall be tolerated in any practice which tends to interrupt public speaking.

15. The Moderator shall be entitled to the same privilege of speaking as any other person, provided he call some one to his seat during the time. He shall not vote on any question unless the Association be equally divided.

16. Any one violating these rules, shall be reprov'd by the Moderator, at his discretion, but only on the day the breach shall have been made.

Order of Exercises:

1. Devotional Exercises.
2. Presentation of Letters from the Churches, and Election of Officers.
3. Receive Correspondence.
4. Return Correspondence.
5. Open the door for the reception of New members.
6. Appoint Special Committees, viz:—1. On Preaching; 2. On Documents; 3. On Nominations; 4. On Finance.
7. Reports of Standing Committees, viz:—1. On Temperance; 2. Sunday Schools; 3. State, Home, and Foreign Missions; 4. Education; 5. Aged and Infirm Ministers; 6. Periodicals; 7. Executive Committee;
8. Orphan's Home.
9. Miscellaneous Business.
10. Appointment of Standing Committees.
17. Give parting hand.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCH	COUNTY	PASTOR	CLERK	CLERK'S Post Office	Membr'ship Last Rept'd	Baptism	Letter Restorati'n	Letter Exclusion	Deaths	Present Membership	S. S. Officers & Teachers	S. S. Pupils	S. S. Superintendent's Name and Post Office.
Bethany	Tuscaloosa	S E Hodge	J H Price	Humphrey	92		3	2	4	1	91	4	30 S E Hughes, Humphrey
Bethel	"	W G Hubbard	N N Brown	Coaling	51	4	3		4	54	5	30 N N Brown, Coaling	
Bibbville	Bibb	Jas. Hogan	W T Sansing	Woodstock	38		6		2	42	5	40 J A Cook, Woodstock	
Big Creek ..	Tuscaloosa	J D Hamner	H C Koster	Northport	72	4				76	4	48 E Coleman, Coker	
Big Hurricane	"	J N Walker	D L Pruett	Woodstock	91	4	4		11	81	7	54 W W Lawrence, Milldale	
Big Sandy ..	"	W B Carter	J D Blocker	Hull	149	4	30		4	176	8	72 B M Phifer, Phifer	
Blocton, 1st.	Bibb	F M Woods	J B Davis	Blocton	181		10		5	183	8	115 W W Perry, Blocton	
Blocton, 2nd	"	S Smitherman	W W Can pbell	"	39	5	9		2	51	9	110 A H Crawford, Blocton	
Blocton, 3rd	"	"	L H Thompson	"	54		46		13	84	6	75 W A Stevens, Blocton	
Brookwood..	Tuscaloosa	A G Hash	M W Murray	Brookwood	60	9	10		6	73	7	73 J F Elliott, Brookwood	
Carroll's Crk	"	J W Loveless	S L Hassell	Northport	26		2			27			
Cottondale ..	"	"	"	"	25					35			
Flatwoods ..	"	J T Bealle	J H Anders	Northport	34	5	1			40	5	40 H W Sloan, Northport	
Gitgal.	"	A W Logan	A W Thompson	Tuscaloosa	119	30	1		15	134	6	40 A W Thompson, Tusk'tsa	
Hopewell. ...	"	J T Bealle	D A Brown	Cottondale	25	13	7		1	44	4	40 L O Brown, Tuscaloosa	
Little Sandy	"	"	J H Ryan	Tuscaloosa	33	1	6		1	39			
Mt. Moriah..	Bibb	Jas. Hogan	B W Clifton	Blocton	75		10		2	79	6	27 J N Hays, Vance	
Mt. Olive....	Tuscaloosa	J H M Anders	J C Shamblin	Northport	70			1		92	4	30 M M Watkins, N'thport	
Mt. Paron. ...	"	J W Loveless	S H Dockery	"	30	1				29			
Mt. Pleasant	"	J R Halman	M Copeland	Cottondale	46		5		3	1	39		
Mt. Zion. ...	"	A W Logan	Frank Whatley	"	90	12				105	4	30 Jas Willingham, Cot'dle	
Northport....	"	J H Curry	D L Brown	Northport	206	3	5		20	191	6	125 C E Rice, Northport	
Piney Grove	"	"	"	"	25					25			
Pleasant Hill	"	J R Fuller	J S Baker	Northport	30	1			14	13	4	25 Collin Snyder, N'thport	
Sardis.	"	J W Loveless	W W Williams	Pearl	51			1	1	48			
Shultz Creek	"	T B Dison	W F Lowry	River Bend	69		5		8	66			
Siloam	Bibb	W E Fendley	J A Waggoner	Centerville	42	1				42	3	25 M W Perry, Scottsville	
Tuscaloosa ..	Tuscaloosa	L O Dawson	Robison Brown	Tuscaloosa	402	15	24		14	421	22	325 T W Palmer, Univers'ty	
Vance.	"	W B Carter	Chas Williams	Vance	61	4	7		8	62			
Wind'm Spgs	"	J B Ferguson	J M Loller	Oregonia	38					46	1	12 J M Loller, Oregonia	
Woodstock ..	Bibb	M T Branham	J U Ray, Sr	Woodstock	41		6		3	42	4	36 J M Rolen, Woodstock	
					2365	116	200	5	117	9	43	27	132
										2530		1402	

FINANCIAL TABLE

CHURCHES	State Missions	Home Missions	Foreign Missions	Associa- tional	Minutes	Minis'trial Education	Howard College Building	Orphans Home	Pastor's Salary	Repairs, Fuel, the Poor, Etc.	S. Schools	Total	Value Church Property
Bethany.....	\$ 2 82	\$ 1 16	2 82	50	1 00	.....	.....	.....	20 00	.....	6 00	28 61	500 00
Bethel.....	25	2 82	.....	25	75	.....	.....	2 18	50 00	.....	2 50	64 14	300 00
Big Creek.....	50	1 00	.....	15	50	.....	.....	35	.....	.....	.....	1 50	100 00
Big Hurricane.....	1 85	1 00	.....	25	70	.....	.....	1 00	.....	.....	2 50	102 85	250 00
Big Sandy.....	14 74	50	2 92	50	1 25	.....	.....	1 50	16 00	80 00	1 75	258 87	500 00
Biocton, First.....	3 43	3 43	3 43	1 00	1 50	5 00	.....	6 00	200 00	28 39	4 77	320 79	1 000 00
Biocton, Second.....	.....	.....	.....	1 00	1 50	.....	.....	60 00	226 00	.....	77 00	2 400 00	2 400 00
Biocton, Third.....	.....	30	.....	75	75	.....	.....	30	76 65	3 09	15 00	76 50	400 00
Brookwood.....	10 00	.....	.....	75	50	.....	.....	.....	118 40	62 10	38 00	81 59	700 00
Carroll's Creek.....	.....	3 10	.....	50	1 50	.....	.....	.....	10 00	.....	.....	220 50	400 00
Cottondale.....	.....	.....	.....	25	50	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	14 65	100 00
Flatwoods.....	12 29	3 14	3 29	1 05	50	.....	.....	.....	37 85	.....	2 00	52 12	500 00
Gilgal.....	3 00	3 00	3 00	1 00	2 00	.....	.....	3 00	89 00	10 21	.....	111 21	200 00
Hopewell.....	3 31	3 33	3 33	50	1 00	.....	.....	.....	23 70	1 25	4 00	40 45	800 00
Little Sandy.....	3 19	3 18	3 18	50	50	.....	.....	.....	60 00	106 96	.....	177 51	800 00
Mt. Moriah.....	1 00	1 00	1 00	50	1 00	65	.....	65	.....	.....	.....	5 80	400 00
Mt. Olive.....	.....	.....	.....	50	1 00	.....	.....	.....	40 00	.....	5 00	48 00	300 00
Mt. Paron.....	.....	1 25	25	50	1 00	.....	.....	.....	10 50	.....	.....	12 00	250 00
Mt. Pleasant.....	1 50	1 50	2 52	50	50	.....	.....	.....	56 30	.....	.....	64 07	350 00
Mt. Zion.....	6 79	3 75	30 44	2 00	2 00	8 24	.....	20 00	375 00	58 97	.....	507 19	1 500 00
Northport.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	32 00	.....	.....	33 50	100 00
Piney Grove.....	.....	.....	.....	50	1 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	2 50	.....	11 94	100 00
Pleasant Hill.....	2 73	2 73	2 73	75	50	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1 50	400 00
Sardis.....	.....	.....	.....	50	1 00	.....	.....	.....	40 00	.....	2 00	46 62	200 00
Shultz Creek.....	50	2 62	.....	50	1 00	.....	.....	.....	1200 00	793 24	80 00	2837 41	20 000 00
Tuscaloosa.....	530 00	124 00	60 17	2 50	2 50	60 00	.....	45 00	75 00	1 00	2 69	87 12	300 00
Vance.....	6 72	71	.....	50	50	.....	.....	.....	8 00	20 00	.....	31 75	500 00
Windham Springs.....	2 00	1 50	1 00	75	1 00	.....	.....	.....	45 00	.....	16 00	66 00	2 000 00
Woodstock.....	1 50	1 50	.....	50	50	14 40	.....	.....	.....	10 00	.....	.....	.....
Col. at Association	2 78	2 78	2 77	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	603 73	168 40	122 85	19 45	28 90	88 29	.....	79 98	2889 40	117771	259 21	5304 24	37 150 00



